



## 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program State Guidelines

### Section I. *In General*

- a. The *Arkansas Agriculture Department* will carry out a 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program to provide assistance to eligible aquaculture industries in the state. Assistance provided under this program will be equivalent to the amount of funds provided to the State by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- b. Assistance will be provided to eligible aquaculture producers of eligible aquaculture species through the provision of checks issued to such producers by the State of Arkansas. Such checks will be allocated to eligible aquaculture producers by the State and are to be used by such producers for costs associated with their current aquaculture operation. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this program will subject the producer to a refund of any amounts received, plus interest, and to other penalties under applicable civil and criminal law.

### Section II. *Definitions*

The following words shall have the following meanings when used in these guidelines and Agreement:

- a. ***Eligible Aquaculture Species*** means a species of aquaculture produced in the state for which feed is at least twenty-five percent of the total input costs associated with producing such species, as determined by the State.
- b. ***Substantial Price Increase of Feed*** means an increase in the average price of feed sold to the producer of eligible aquaculture species that is twenty-five percent above the previous five-year average, as determined by the State.
- c. ***Eligible Aquaculture Producer*** means an individual or entity that;
  - (1) During the years of 2009 and 2010, raised or is presently raising an eligible aquaculture species in a controlled environment, feeding and maintaining such species for commercial use as part of a farming operation and has a risk in the production of such species.
  - (2) During 2010 purchased feed, at a minimum, during the time period of May 2010 through August 2010.
  - (2) Produced an eligible aquaculture species during the calendar year 2009.
  - (3) Has been determined by the Arkansas Agriculture Department, Aquaculture Division to have experienced a twenty-five percent price increase in feed costs during 2009.
  - (4) Enters into a 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program Agreement with the Arkansas Agriculture Department and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of the 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program.
  - (5) Certifies that funds received by the producer under the 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program will be used for costs associated with their current aquaculture operation.
- d. ***Controlled Environment*** means an environment in which everything that can practicably be controlled with structures, facilities, growing media (including but not limited to water or nutrients) by the producer, is in fact controlled by the producer, as determined by industry standards.

### **Section III. *Eligible Aquaculture Species***

For the purposes of the 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program, Eligible Aquaculture Species are the following species of fish:

*[List the covered fish species]\*Note: Additional species may be added to eligible list*

Eligible Species	
Catfish	Goldfish
Baitfish	Tilapia
Hybrid-Striped Bass	Large-Mouth Bass

### **Section IV. *Implementation Agreements***

In order to participate in the 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program, *Eligible Aquaculture Producers* must enter into a 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program Agreement with the Arkansas Agriculture Department. The Arkansas Agriculture Department will not allocate any grant payments to any aquaculture producers within the State unless such producer has submitted and executed 2009 Aquaculture Grant Program Agreement to the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

### **Section V. *Records and Audits***

a. Eligible Aquaculture Producers that participate in the 2009 AGP shall;

- (1) Maintain, for a period of 3 years after December 1, 2010, all records pertaining to the aquaculture operation during the 2009 calendar year.
- (2) Furnish such information and reports relating to the program as may be requested by the Arkansas Agriculture Department.
- (3) Forward to the Arkansas Agriculture Department copies of any and all records that support the receipt of assistance under the 2009 AGP.
- (4) Make such records available at all reasonable times for an audit or inspection by authorized representatives of the Arkansas Agriculture Department or of the United States Department of Agriculture, or the Comptroller General of the United States.

b. Failure to keep, or make available, such records will result in a termination of eligibility under the program and any funds received under the program shall be refunded to the Arkansas Agriculture Department, plus interest thereon, as determined by the Arkansas Agriculture Department.